

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

***November 8, 2004***

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **MICHAEL SAGE DANTON**, 23, of Ontario, Canada, was sentenced today in federal court in East St. Louis, to 90 months' imprisonment, a \$750 fine, a \$100 special assessment and 3 years supervised release after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit interstate murder for hire in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1958.

Danton is a former professional hockey player who worked for the St. Louis Blues.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Danton may petition to the Department of Justice for transfer to Canada for service of the sentence. All Canadian citizens incarcerated in federal penitentiaries in the United States may petition the Department of Justice for such transfers under treaties entered into by the United States and Canada. Transfers are not automatically granted, but the decision to transfer rests within the discretion of the Attorney General.

Of today's sentencing, Mr. Tenpas said, "We are pleased to have fully resolved this matter. The quick work of federal and local law enforcement helped prevent a dangerous situation from becoming truly tragic. The Court's careful sentencing insures that justice will be served."

The investigation of this case was conducted by the FBI, Springfield, St. Louis, and San Francisco Divisions, as well as the Columbia, Illinois Police Department, and the Brentwood, Missouri Police Department. Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Springfield Division, Weysan Dun commends the cooperative efforts of all the involved agencies.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen Clark and Angela Scott.